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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world, to be held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, in which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 22 March 2001 (A/56/61). The plan of action, in paragraph 22 (c), called on the Special Committee to organize seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action.

2. In its resolution 63/110 of 15 December 2008, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2009, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the seminar

3. The Caribbean regional seminar will be held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009.

III. Purpose of the seminar

4. The purpose of the seminar is to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, that can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The seminar's discussions will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for further consideration by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2009, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

IV. Agenda of the seminar

6. The agenda of the seminar is as follows:

1. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world:

(a) Dynamics of a changing world;

(b) Strengthening cooperation with administering Powers;

(c) The role of the Special Committee in facilitating enhanced outreach to and participation of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations decolonization process.

2. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region.

3. Challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region and other Territories:

(a) Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, including a follow-up to the 2008 Pacific Regional seminar;

(b) Other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories:

(a) Presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and others;

(b) Perspectives of the Special Committee, administering Powers and territorial Governments, as well as views of experts.

5. Way forward:

(a) Priorities for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

(b) Possible approach and priorities beyond the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

V. Organization of the seminar

7. The following provisions will govern the organization of the seminar:

(a) The seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and seven other members representing each of the regional groups within the Special Committee;

(c) The seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of Member States;

(ii) Representatives of the host Government;

(iii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iv) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(v) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(vi) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vii) Representatives of the organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The regional seminar is held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. The organization of the seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the seminar

The seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau of the seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur of the seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, pose questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working language of the seminar shall be English.

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[a] A/520/Rev.16.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the seminar

Participation in the seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman.

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the seminar

(a) The meetings of the seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that a meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the seminar held in public.

(c) Participating organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman, with the consent of the seminar, may declare the list of speakers closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

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[b] See A/56/61, annex, para. 22 (c).

Rule 9
Report

The Rapporteur of the seminar shall prepare the draft report of the proceedings of the seminar. Members of the Special Committee who participate in the seminar will provide conclusions and recommendations to the Special Committee for consideration at its substantive session.